

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GOTEBO 00142 030949Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
TRSE-00 /077 W
-----006058 031159Z /75

R 030845Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL GOTEBORG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0566
INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS GOTEBO 0142

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SW
SUBJECT: MAY DAY RALLIES IN GOTEBO

1. THE PARTIES OF THE SWEDISH LEFT IN GOTEBO WERE OUT IN FORCE ON THE FIRST OF MAY WITH THEIR TRADITIONAL RALLIES. BY FAR THE LARGEST DEMONSTRATION WAS THAT HELD BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AT GOTEBO'S MAIN SQUARE, WHERE SOME 25,000 PERSONS LISTENED TO METAL WORKERS CHAIRMAN BERT LUNDIN DENOUNCE THE NON-SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER THORBJORN FALLDIN. LUNDIN HIT HARD AT THE GOVERNMENT'S "FAILURE" TO SAFE-GUARD EMPLOYMENT, A POPULAR TOPIC IN THIS ECONOMICALLY TROUBLED PORT CITY, WITH MOST OF ITS SHIPBUILDING CAPACITY LYING IDLE. LUNDIN ASSERTED THAT THE FALLDIN GOVERNMENT'S ONLY ANSWER TO THE NATION'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IS THE SLOGAN "MORE PROFITS FOR CAPITALISM", AND HE CHARGED THAT THE RECENT EFFORTS TO FORM A EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVE ORGANIZATION SIMILAR TO THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL REVEALED THE "STRONG TIES" BETWEEN THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT AND "DARK FORCES" SUCH AS FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS. LUNDIN CONCLUDED WITH A CALL FOR ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY AND ADOPTION OF THE WAGE EARNERS' FUNDS.

2. APPROXIMATELY 5-6,000 PERSONS GATHERED AT ANOTHER GOTEBO SQUARE TO HEAR COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK) LEADER LARS WERNER'S EVEN
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HARSHER CRITICISM OF THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT. WERNER LINKED THE STRUGGLE AGAINST "BIG CAPITAL" IN SWEDEN WITH THE "ANTI-IMPERIALISTIC" STRUGGLE BEING WAGED BY THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA, CHILE, AND PALESTINE. HE CONCLUDED WITH A CALL FOR FORMATION OF A "UNITED FRONT OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES FOR PEACE, SOLIDARITY, DEMOCRACY, AND SOCIALISM."

3. A SLIGHTLY SMALLER NUMBER LISTENED TO THE LEADER OF THE FAR LEFT MARXIST-LENINIST COMMUNIST PARTY, KPML(R), FRANK BAUDE, CRITICIZE BOTH THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND THE PREVIOUS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION OF OLOF PALME FOR "CHEATING THE WORKING CLASS WITH ILLUSIONS." THE KPML(R) LEADER ALSO HAD HARSH WORDS FOR NATIONAL LABOR FEDERATION LEADER GUNNAR NILSSON FOR NOT EFFECTIVELY REPRESENTING THE WORKERS' INTEREST. BAUDE CONDEMNED THE ISRAELI INVASION OF LEBANON AS A REFLECTION OF "ISRAELI RACISM", AND PLEDGED THE PARTY'S SOLIDARITY WITH THE "STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIALISM AND FASCISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA."

4. MISSING FROM THE LOCAL SCENE WAS THE COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY (APK), AN OFF-SHOOT OF THE VPK, WHICH APPARENTLY CONCENTRATED ITS EFFORTS ON ITS STOCKHOLM RALLY.
OWENS

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